

Young People's Societies

FRANCES WILLARD.

Topic for Sunday, June 13: The noble life of Frances Willard. Proverbs 31:10, 17-20, 25, 26, 29-31.

Daily Readings.

Monday: The Mother of us all. Genesis 3:18-25.
Tuesday: Sarah—obedience. 1 Peter 3:1-6.
Wednesday: Ruth—trustfulness. Ruth 2:1-12.
Thursday: Mary—spirituality. Luke 2:46-55.
Friday: Martha—service. Luke 10:38-42.
Saturday: Mary—worship. John 12:1-9.

The Bible places high honor upon women. Why should not we? Miriam, Deborah, Jael, Esther, Elizabeth, Mary, Paul's roll in his epistles, were but a few of those whose history God has preserved.

It is a little singular that of all the names given in Paul's salutations to the Romans, half belonged to each sex. Was it intended to be significant? Perhaps God designated that it should be so, to remind us that the responsibility is even.

Frances E. Willard's life and work will stand out among the best of the century just passed. Her life was devoted to the cause of temperance and purity. Her work was constant and vigorous, yet not marked by any fanaticism or unintelligent zeal. She had a well-balanced mind, a charitable heart, a tactful method, and consuming industry.

She was born in Churchville, New York, September 28, 1839, and died February 17, 1898, at fifty-nine years of age. She was of old Puritan stock, and the line of which she came gave before her many eminent men to Church and state and school. Early in life she moved, with her family, to Oberlin, Ohio, and later to Janesville, Wisconsin. She was well trained in college and school.

She espoused the calling of teacher, developing such success in the work that before many years had passed she was called to the deanship of the college at which she had graduated, Northwestern Female College, Evanston, Ill., and also took charge of the chair of Aesthetics in Northwestern University. Her abilities, both intellectual and administrative, were pronounced.

The "Woman's Crusade" for temperance, was the first in which she began to take prominent part. In 1874 she was at the head of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Chicago, and five years later became president of the national organization of that union. The latter place she held, the unquestioned leader of the women of America in temperance work, until her death, nineteen years later.

Miss Willard both spoke and wrote for temperance, as well as organized its forces, welding the many divergent elements into a homogeneous whole that was a marvelous tribute to her power and spirit. The world is better for the presence and life of such a woman.

"I entreat you to surround me with the atmosphere of daily prayers; for if God be for us, who can be against us?"—Japan Missionary. Dear sisters, shall we not thus meet at the noon-day hour? How many of us will heed the Angelus call as the clock strikes twelve each day this spring-time? Shall not our dear brethren in Japan feel girt with heavenly power as the wireless current sweeps east and west in divinely appointed circuit to the place where our Japanese brethren may be gathered in counsel and devotion?

All my theology is reduced to this narrow compass—Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.—Archibald Alexander.

Prayer Meeting

OBLIGATION TO CHILDREN.

June 13. Deut. 6:6-9.

"Hear, O, Israel: Jehovah our God is one Jehovah; and thou shalt love Jehovah, thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might, and these words which I command thee this day, shall be upon thy heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children." Obedience to the command to love our God with all our heart, soul and might and to have his commands upon our heart will insure that we teach them diligently to our children, because earthly fathers do know how to give good gifts to their children.

If we esteem our Saviour as the One altogether lovely, the chiefest among ten thousand, whom to know aright is life eternal, and the doing of whose will is our delight, we will feel that we have a treasure that we long to share with our dear ones; duty and desire will coincide.

So our first obligations as Christians, to our children, is, to have that vital union with Christ which results in whole-hearted love and service. Then we will spontaneously and joyously talk of Him, who is the living Word, in all the conditions and circumstances of life, and talk not only with our lips, but our lives. We will live Christ's life, for He is the vine and we are the branches into whom the life of the vine is flowing.

But we are painfully conscious that we are not already made perfect; but are pressing on, if so, that we may lay hold on that for which also we were laid hold on by Christ Jesus.

Christ is our righteousness, in order that his righteousness may become practical in our lives. The end of life is to be changed into the image of Christ. Our obligation to children is to give them the clearest view of the character of Christ that it is possible for our intellect, taught by the spirit of God, to present to their mind, illustrated by the best life we can live, with humble dependence on the love of our Father to over rule our mistakes, and with earnest prayer that He will do for them exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think, to the praise of his wondrous love.

LIFE DAYS.

By George Carrington Moseley.

Some life-days are bitter-gray,
When hope burns low in the human breast;
When the light of life is all but out,
And to the weary comes no rest.
When o'er the wide horizon of the soul,
The wild waves of trouble suddenly roll,
Filling the hours with dread dismay.

Some life-days are golden-sweet,
When the sky seems full of sunshine cheer;
When the joyous heart exultant springs,
And the glory of heaven is near.
The splendor of the morn is ours,
After the dark, tempestuous hours,
And our happiness is complete.

Ah, yes, for thus 'twill ever be,
That some life-days will be bitter-gray,
And others, too, will golden be;
And yet 'tis true whatever they
May bring to us of pain or care,
Of joy or happiness most rare,
We'll in it all God's wisdom see.

You may cover up your sin from others, but its consequences will find you out.